IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (currently amended)   An information processing device, comprising:

an input/output device operable to send and receive data ~~to and from an external device~~ by using a standard digital interface format;

an encoder operable to encode the data to be sent ~~to the external device~~;

a decoder operable to decode the received data <u>when the received data is encrypted data</u> ~~from the external device~~;

a judging unit operable to judge:(i) whether said received data <u>conforms'</u> to a IEC60958 standard <u>so as to be</u> ~~is~~ audio data, ~~and~~ (ii) <u>whether said received data is the encrypted data, and (iii) when said received data is the encrypted data,</u> whether said encrypted data has been properly decoded; and

means operable to execute mute processing to prevent sound emission when said judging unit determines if any one of the following two items exists:(i) said received data <u>does</u> ~~is~~ not conform to the IEC60958 standard ~~audio data~~, and (ii) said encrypted data has not been properly decoded <u>when said received data is judged to be the encrypted data,</u> and to not execute mute processing when said judging unit does not determine if any one of the two items exists.

2.   (canceled)

3.   (currently amended)   The information processing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein, when said judging unit judges that said encrypted data has been properly decoded <u>for a predetermined amount of time</u> after the mute processing has been initiated, the mute processing is canceled ~~after a predetermined time has elapsed~~, whereby the output of said data from said

decoder is resumed, in which the predetermined amount of time is approximately 0.5 seconds.

4.   (currently amended) An information processing method, comprising the steps of:

sending and receiving data ~~to and from an external device~~ by using a standard digital interface format;

encoding the data to be sent ~~to the external device~~;

decoding the received data when the received data is encrypted data ~~from the external device~~;

judging whether said received data conforms to a IEC60958 standard so as to be ~~is~~ audio data, ~~and~~ whether said received data is the encrypted data, and when said received data is the encrypted data, whether the encrypted data has been properly decoded; and

executing mute processing to prevent sound emission when the judging step determines if any one of the following two items exists: (i) said received data ~~is~~does not conform to the IEC60958 standard~~audio data~~, and (ii) the encrypted data has not been properly decoded when said received data is judged to be the encrypted data, and not executing mute processing when the judging step does not determine if any one of the two items exists.

5.   (canceled)

6.   (currently amended) The information processing method as claimed in claim 4, wherein, when the judging step judges that the encrypted data has been properly decoded for a predetermined amount of time after mute processing has been initiated by the executing step, the mute processing is cancelled ~~after a predetermined time has elapsed~~, whereby the

3

output of the data from the decoding step is resumed, in which the predetermined amount of time is approximately 0.5 seconds.

7.   (currently amended) A recording medium recorded with a computer-readable program for information processing, the program comprising the steps of:

sending and receiving data ~~to and from an external device~~ by using a standard digital interface format;

encoding the data to be sent ~~to the external device~~;

decoding the received data when the received data is encrypted data ~~from the external device~~;

judging whether said received data ~~is~~ conforms to a IEC60958 standard so as to be audio data, ~~and~~ whether said received data is the encrypted data, and when said received data is the encrypted data, whether the encrypted data has been properly decoded; and

executing mute processing to prevent sound emission when the judging step determines if any one of the following two items exists: (i) said received data ~~is~~ does not conform to the IEC60958 standard ~~audio data~~, and (ii) the encrypted data has not been properly decoded when said received data is judged to be the encrypted data, and not executing mute processing when the judging step does not determine if any one of the two items exists.

8.   (canceled)

9.   (currently amended) The recording medium recorded with a computer-readable program as claimed in claim 7, wherein, when the judging step judges that the encrypted data has been properly decoded for a predetermined amount of time after mute processing has been initiated by the executing step, the mute processing is cancelled ~~after a predetermined time has elapsed~~,

whereby the output of the data from the decoding step is resumed, in which the predetermined amount of time is approximately 0.5 seconds.

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended)   The information processing device as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein the external device is a digital television receiver and~~ wherein the standard digital interface format conforms to a IEEE 1394 standard.

14. (currently amended)   The information processing method as claimed in claim 4, ~~wherein the external device is a digital television receiver and~~ wherein the standard digital interface format conforms to a IEEE 1394 standard.

15. (currently amended)   The recording medium as claimed in claim 7, ~~wherein the external device is a digital television receiver and~~ wherein the standard digital interface format conforms to a IEEE 1394 standard.